

REMARKS

Introduction

In response to the final Office Action dated July 1, 2008, Applicants have amended claim 1. Support for amended claim 1 is found in, for example, Fig. 3 and pg. 6, lines 9-15. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Interview Summary

Applicants appreciate the courtesy of Examiner Xinning Niu and Primary Examiner Tod Van Roy in granting a personal interview with the undersigned on September 16, 2008. During the interview, the prior art rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 of the Office Action dated July 1, 2008 predicated on U.S. Patent No. 5,578,863 to De Poorter and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0039374 to Onomura et al. (“Onomura”) was discussed. Proposed amended claim 1 was discussed, specifically adding limitations directed to the mean time to failure (MTTF) of 3,000 hours or more at 70°C.

Examiner Niu stated that the proposed amendment would overcome the rejection predicated on De Poorter and Onomura. Examiner Niu indicated that he would need to review the entire record and cited prior art in view of the arguments that we presented during the interview, and update the prior art search.

In response to the Office Action dated July 1, 2008, claim 1 was amended, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,578,863 to De Poorter in view of Onomura.

Claim 1 has been amended, in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations.

For at least these reasons, the rejection is moot and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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